PLOWSHARE® TECHNOLOGIES

SUPPORT

Products | Support | News | Con

home > support > faq

search

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

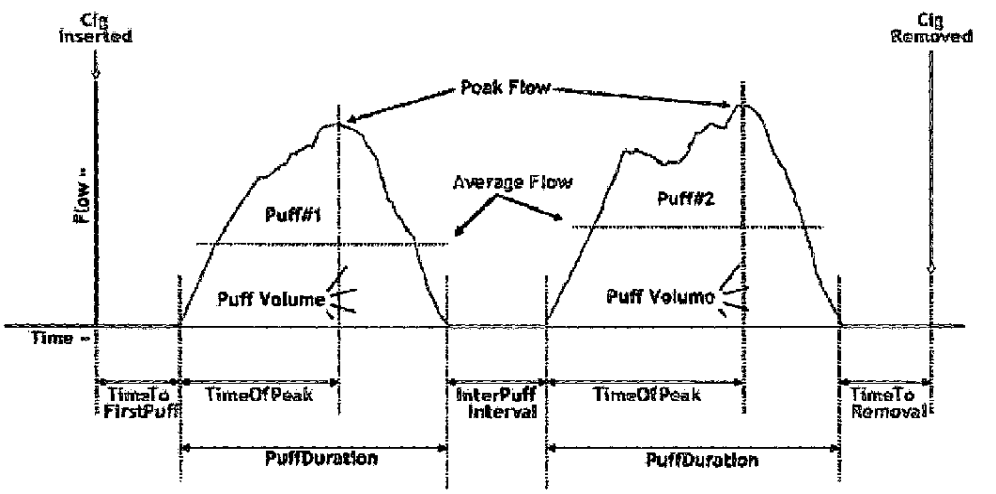
This support section provides answers to your burning questions about our products, our company, and pretty anything else. If you do not happen to find your question addressed here, please feel free to forward a new or us. This part of the site is updated often, so check back to see if your question and answer have been publishe Some of the Question links below take you to a product support area while others are answered on this page.

The Questions and Answers

» Q: What, exactly, is smoking topography?
» Q: What if my PC doesn't have a serial port (for physio monitor or CReSSmicro)?
» Q: What is the recommended procedure for cleaning/disinfecting CReSSmicro mouthpieces?
» Q: Will CReSSmicro lose recorded measures if I remove the battery?
» Q: Will CReSSmicro lose track of the date and time if I remove the battery?
» Q: Will the CReSSmicro mouthpiece cover filter vent holes in light or ultra-light cigarettes?
» Q: How does CReSSmicro handle smaller diameter cigarettes?
» Q: Why does the CReSSmicro LED flash green when I plug it into the data/power cable?
» Q: Why does the CReSSmicro red LED come on then go out when I connect the data/power cable?
» Q: Why don't I need to use a lit cigarette when creating test puffs?
» Q: Can you help me get my Criticare (physio monitor) working with CReSS?
» Q: Why am I getting so many (often tiny) puffs in my CReSS topography data?
» Q: What is the best method of using and maintaining the CReSS mouthpiece?
» Q: How do I exit from the CReSS "All Tests Complete..." screen?
» Q: Can you provide tips on performing CReSS calibration?
» Q: Where are your products being used today?
» Q: Are there any published studies that used your products?
» Q: How quickly can I get an order delivered?
» Q: Do you offer quantity discounts?
» Q: Do you offer training or consulting?
» Q: What is the deal with your company name... Plowshare???

Q: What, exactly, is smoking topography?

The graphic below shows a notional example of two puffs and their attendant measures:



As you can see in the diagram, our equipment measures two key characteristics: **Flow Rate** (on the y-axis) and **Time** (on axis) in order to derive the unique puffing behavior of a participant. We use a *flowmeter* mouthpiece that produces a differe pressure signal directly related to the flow rate. This signal is sampled by onboard electronics in real-time as a puff occurs t providing the equipment with the instantaneous flow rate at any given point in time.

The measures shown in **black** are provided by both our lab-based and portable measurement solutions whereas those show **blue** are provided only by CReSSmicro (our portable instrument).

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/yjfj0001

Q: What if my PC doesn't have a serial port (for physio monitor or CReSSmicro)?
Many newer "legacy free" PCs do not support an RS232 serial port connection. This type of port is required for use with thir party vital signs monitors (in CReSS) or our portable topography measurement device (CReSSmicro). The simplest solution this is to buy an after-market RS232 serial port for your PC. There are several styles including those that plug into a PCI slc your desktop PC, those that plug into a PCCard slot in your notebook PC, and those that plug into an available USB port on PC. In addition, most of the after-market solutions offer multiple ports in case you need an RS232 port for some other equipment.

The **key specifications** for an after-market RS232 card are:

- Compliance with the RS232 Standard for serial communications
- 9-Pin DB9 Connector (all of our cables use this connector)
- Added port **must** be in range COM1..COM4 (for CReSS only, CReSSmicro can use any port address)

Q: Where are your products being used today?
Our behavioral measurement solutions are used throughout the US and Canada. Here is a list of our recent customers in alphabetical order:

- American Health Foundation
- Auburn University
- Battelle Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation
- Brentwood Biomedical Research Institute
- Brooklyn College
- Brown University
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Toronto, CA)
- Duke University
- Florida State University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University McLean Hospital
- Johns Hopkins University
- Louisiana State University
- Maryland Psychiatric Research Center
- MD Anderson Cancer Center (University of Texas)
- Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- Ohio State University
- Oregon Health & Science University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Personal Improvement Computer Systems (PICS), Inc.
- Philip Morris International
- Philip Morris USA, Inc.
- Purdue University
- R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company
- Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- Star Scientific, Inc.
- University of California at Los Angeles
- University of California at San Francisco
- University of Florida
- University of Kansas
- University of Memphis
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Vermont
- University of Waterloo (Ontario, CA)
- University of Wisconsin
- VA Medical Center Cincinnati, OH
- VA Medical Center Durham, NC
- VA Medical Center Providence, RI
- VA Medical Center West Los Angeles, CA
- VicHealth Centre for Tobacco Control (Victoria, Australia)
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Yale University

Q: Are there any published studies that used your products?
Yes. The following is a partial list of publications from studies that used **CReSS** for measurement and data collection:

- Lee, E.M., Malson, J.L., Waters, A.J., Moolchan, E.T., and Pickworth, W.B. (2003) Smoking Topography: Reliability anc validity in dependent smokers. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*. 5, 673-679.

- Breland, A.B., Evans, S.E., Buchhalter, A.R., and Eissenberg, T. (2002) Acute effects of Advance™: a potential reduce exposure product for smokers. *Tobacco Control*. 11, 376-378.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/yjfj0001

• Breland, A.B., Buchhalter, A.R., Evans, S.E., and Eissenberg, T. (2002) Evaluating acute effects of potential reduced exposure products for smokers: clinical laboratory methodology. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*. 4 (Suppl 2), S131-S14

• Corrigall, W.A., Zack, M., Eissenberg, T., Belsito, L., and Scher, R. (2001) Acute subjective and physiological response smoking in adolescents. *Addiction*. 96, 1409-17.

• Buchhalter A.R., Schrinel, L., and Eissenberg, T. (2001) Withdrawal Suppressing Effects of a Novel Smoking System: Comparison with Own Brand, Not Own Brand, and Denicotinized Cigarettes. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*. 3, 111-118

• Zack, M., Belsito, L., Scher, R., Eissenberg, T., and Corrigall, W.A. (2001). Effects of abstinence and smoking on information processing in adolescent smokers. *Psychopharmacology*. 153, 249-257.

• Gire, J.T. and Eissenberg, T. (2000). Placebo control study of acute smokeless tobacco abstinence in young adult men *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. 14, 356-366.

• Buchhalter, A.R. and Eissenberg, T. (2000). Preliminary evaluation of a novel smoking system: effects on subjective a physiological measures and on smoking behavior. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*. 2, 39-43.

• Eissenberg, T., Riggins, E.C.R. III, Harkins, S.W., and Weaver, M.F. (2000). A clinical laboratory model for direct assessment of medication-induced antihyperalgesia and subjective effects: initial validation studies. *Experimental and C Psychopharmacology*. 8, 47-60.

• Eissenberg, T., Adams, C., Riggins, E.C.R. III, and Likness, M. (1999). Smoker' sex and the effects of tobacco cigarett subject-rated and physiological measures. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*. 1, 317-324.

The following is a partial list of publications from studies that used **CReSSmicro** for measurement and data collection:

• Evans, S.E. and Eissenberg, T., Do brand-induced changes in puff topography occur outside of the laboratory? *Poster presentation to the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*, February, 2003.

• Evans, S.E., Breland A., Kleykamp A., Buchhalter A.R., and Eissenberg, T., Ambulatory puff topography measurement validation study. *Poster presentation to the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*, February, 2003.

Q: How quickly can I get an order delivered?

Orders are generally delivered within four weeks of our receipt of your purchase order. Orders frequently ship in less than t weeks, but this depends on the availability of materials from our vendors. If you are in a rush to get a system, please let us at the time of order placement and we will do everything in our power to expedite delivery.

Q: Do you offer quantity discounts?

Yes. Please visit our CReSS Configuration and Pricing page for quantity discount information on our lab-based product or th CReSSmicro Ordering Information page for quantity discount information on our portable product.

Q: Do you offer training or consulting?

Yes. Please visit our Services page for more information.

Q: What is the deal with your company name... Plowshare???

Our founder began his professional life in the defense industry. He ended up spending over a decade there before deciding turn his "sword" (work *in* defense) into a "plowshare" (work *outside* of defense). No religious overtones intended... it is a common enough phrase. If you would like to read more about our fascinating company history, just visit our Background p

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